WARLANDS™
BANISHED KNIGHTS
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Banished Knights
ISSUE # 1 ~ GREYSON'S END

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

WARLANDS

BANISHED KNIGHTS™

CREATED BY
PAT LEE & ADRIAN TSANG

Written by Adrian Tsang
Pencilled & Inked by Alvin Lee
Backgrounds by James Raiz
Colors by Ramil Sunga
Flats by Erik Sander
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Editor-In-Chief Roger Lee
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What does a Vampire Want?
A difficult question.
Like any mortal, he has desires, and dreams.
And like any mortal faced with an absence in his life, or absence of life in this case, he struggles to fill that absence, to find purpose.

He is no more inherently evil than inherently good, and is driven by desires that are uniquely his own.

He is immortal, but he can die.

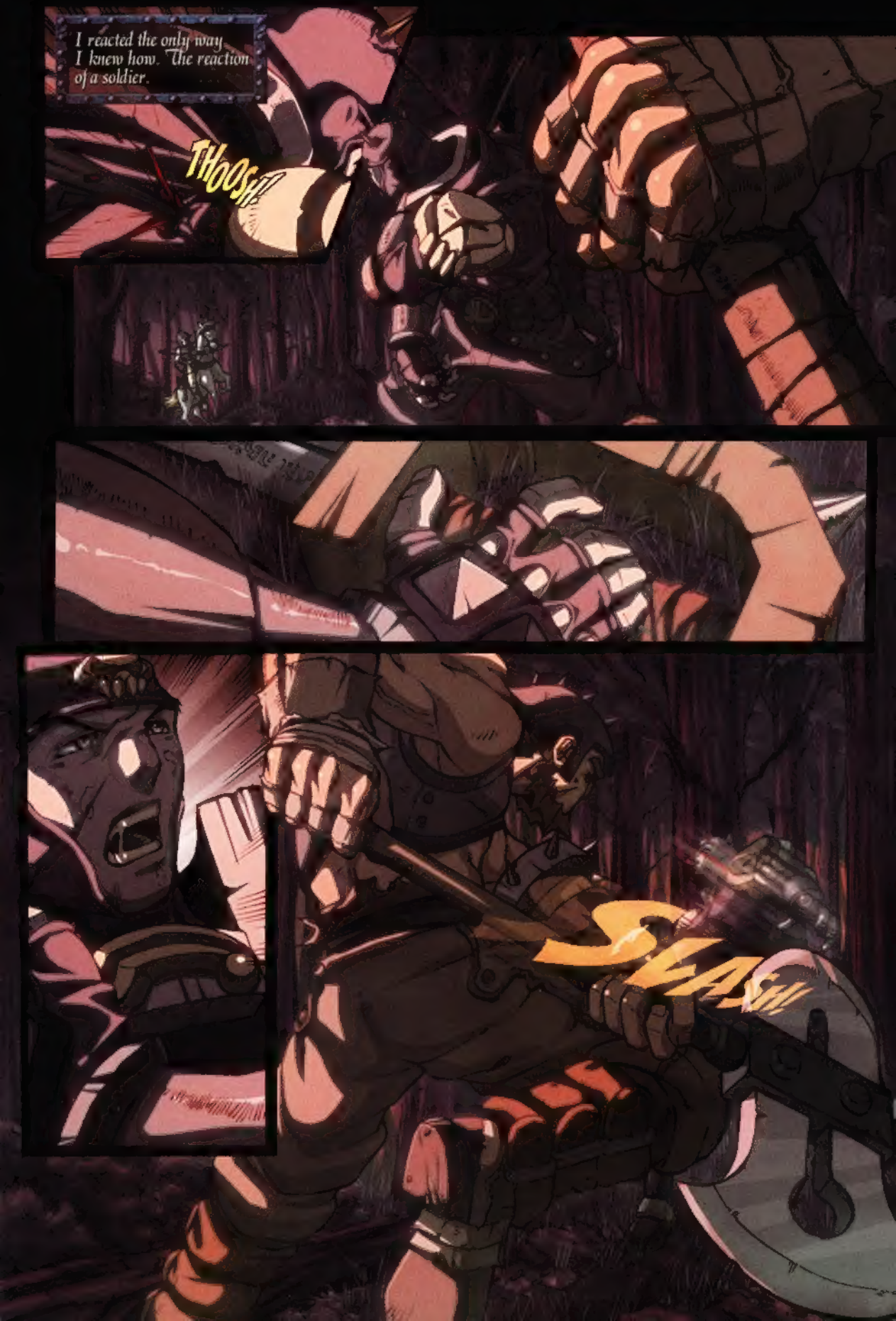
He is a creature of myth,
But he is born of the mortal coil.
He hunts, but is himself hunted.
He is contradiction given form.
Thus the question remains: What does a Vampire Want?
He wants many things...

DO YOU WANT TO DIE TONIGHT VAMPIRE?
I've been dead a long time now.

I can still remember the day I died.
50 Years earlier.
The armies of the east had triumphed over the Dataran--
--Leaving them with the task of removing the dead.
Huge pyres were constructed to burn the bodies, and patrols were sent out in search of those not yet dead--

I awoke as they dragged my corpse towards the flames, unaware of what I had become.
GLLLG...
UUUHHHH...
THIS ONE'S ALIVE!!!
If the man hadn't been so afraid he probably would have laughed out loud.
SHEATH THAT BLADE CORPORAL ...WHAT'S GOING ON?

-Imagine the absurdity: A vampire that doesn't know he's a vampire, trying to give orders to his dinner...
I awakened as the man I was when I died-
-The world gone mad around me.
CCCCRRAAACK!
The very people who had fought alongside me were now my enemies.


I reacted the only way I knew how. The reaction of a soldier.
THOOSH!!
SLASH!

SKLURCH!!
strange how quickly one can change loyalties when you're a good person.

SWAAASH!
I killed a great many mortals that day.
Who would have guessed I would be so good at it...

...or that I'd meet so many people that deserved it...
THWAK!
AAARGGGH!

SLRRGGH!!
CHIIK
KAANG!

Several hours later...
UGH!

YOU'VE MISSED ONE GREYSON.
HOW DID YOU FIND ME BELMIRO?
SIMPLE, I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
I CAN'T TAKE ALL THE CREDIT, HOWEVER-
ROSALA HELPED AS WELL.

THE WINDS OF CHANGE ARE BLOWING GREYSON. THE RYOTIANS CHALLENGE EVERY MAJOR POWER ON THE EASTERN CONTINENT, AND THE MERCHANT PRINCES RULE IN THE SOUTH.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
AND HERE IN DATARA, WELL, YOU NEED ONLY LOOK AROUND TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR MEASURE OF POWER.
WHAT DO THE DEEDS OF MAN MATTER, TO A VAMPYRE?

TODAY? A GREAT DEAL. WE NEED YOUR HELP. AND YOU NEED OURS.
SOMEHOW, I DOUBT THAT.
HUMPH.
TELL ME GREYSON, WHY DID YOU FIND IT NECESSARY TO MUTILATE THESE POOR MORTALS? AS I RECALL, YOU APPALLED THIS TYPE OF VIOLENCE.
PERHAPS, YOU WERE NOT ENTIRELY IN CONTROL OF YOUR OWN ACTIONS?
PERHAPS YOU'VE FOUND THAT AS OF LATE, YOU'RE FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO CONTROL YOUR MORE--

~BASER URGES?
I HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR RIDDLES BELMIRO.

*See Warlands Issue 12 for details.

THIS IS WHAT IS LEFT OF HIM.
IT TOOK A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT TO DO THAT. I FEARED FOR A WHILE THAT HE COULD NOT BE KILLED.
YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THERE ARE THINGS WORSE THAN DEATH.
THERE IS NOW, IT SEEMS, A THING THAT IS WORSE THAN UNDEATH AS WELL.
ALESSANDRO WENT MAD GREYSON. MAD WITH... EVIL.
EVERY VAMPIRE RETAINS A SMALL MEASURE OF HIS SOUL WITHIN HIS BODY. IT IS THE SOURCE OF OUR POWER.

BEFORE MALAGEN'S DEFEAT, ALL OF OUR LIFE FORCES WERE LINKED AS ONE, SO THEY COULD NOT BE PULLED INTO THE ABYSS.
NOW THAT HE'S DEAD, THE MAGIK BINDING US TO THIS REALM IS FADING - WE ARE FADING WITH IT.
YOUR HELP. IT WAS ALESSANDRO HIMSELF WHO SUGGESTED WE SEEK YOU OUT.
I FEAR WHAT IS LEFT BEHIND.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM WILL HAPPEN TO US. IT IS HAPPENING TO US. YOUR ACTIONS HERE TODAY ARE PROOF ENOUGH OF THAT.
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, IT WAS THAT MENTALITY THAT GOT US INTO THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I SUPPOSE I BELIEVE YOU. WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE I DO ABOUT IT?
I KNOW A WAY TO REVERSE THE PROCESS-AS WELL AS ATTAIN POWER TO RIVAL THE VAMPIRE LORDS THEMSELVES!

YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE GREYSON.
WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW ABOUT THIS. OTHERS OF OUR KIND ARE SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS AS WELL, AND THEY WON'T BE AS COURTEOUS AS I.
I'M OFFERING YOU A CHANCE FOR LIMITLESS POWER GREYSON! POWER TO DO ANYTHING!
YOU COULD EVEN BECOME HUMAN AGAIN.

I TOLD YOU HE WOULD NOT HELP US.
PATIENCE ROSALA.
We've found him. The hard part is over. He still may change his mind.
If he doesn't, we can kill him like the rest...

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OUR FOOD IS GETTING COLD DELMIRO.
LEAVE HER ROSALA. WE'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DEAL WITH.
WHAT IS HE DOING?
THINKING. HE'S TRYING TO PROVE ME WRONG. HE'LL COME BACK WHEN HE REALIZES THAT DESPITE HIS PERSONAL LOATHING TO THE IDEA, HIS BEST ALTERNATIVE IS TO JOIN US.
You would spend the rest of eternity sitting on that rock, and you'd stand up here watching him the entire time.
Leaving me to die
What would you
As usual, you assume that I need you to do anything.

I can feel it happening. Even before Remy, I could feel myself... losing control. Belmiro seems to think it has something to do with the death of Malagen's power.
He also seems to think there's a way of reversing it. A way to become human again.
IT'S TRUE YOU KNOW.
LIFE ETERNAL IS A STRANGE THING YOU SEE- I BELIEVE VAMPIRES HAVE THE CAPACITY TO FEAR DEATH EVEN MORE THAN MORTALS.
AFTER ALL, WHY FEAR SOMETHING YOU'VE GOT NO POWER OVER IN THE FIRST PLACE?
YOU'VE GOT A PERVERSE WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS.
I WALK IN A PERVERSE WORLD MY DEAR. AND WHAT COULD BE MORE PERVERSE THAN THIS PATHETIC IMMORTALITY?
I'VE HAD A THOUSAND YEARS TO THINK ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN SHOULD I PASS FROM THIS EXISTENCE.
EVERYTHING HE'S SAID I MEAN, IF IT WASN'T, I WOULDN'T BE HERE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ROSALA?
WHAT ANY MIDDLE AGED WOMAN WANTS - SECURITY.
*See last issue for details.

AN ETERNITY IN THE ABYSS, NOTHINGNESS, OR A LIFE ROAMING THE MATERIAL PLANE AS SOME HALF MAD MONSTER? QUITE FRANKLY I DON'T LIKE MY OPTIONS.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO OCCUPY ETERNITY BY CHASING AFTER BELMIRO'S FANTASY.
OH, IT'S NO FANTASY...THIS IS WHAT WE USE TO CONTAIN THE SOULS OF OUR SLAIN BRETHREN. ADAPTED FROM A DWARVEN DESIGN.
BELMIRO'S GLOWS TWICE AS BRIGHTLY AS MY OWN. I WOULD GUESS HE'S KILLED MAYBE A HUNDRED OF US TO GET HIS AMULET TO THE POINT IT'S REACHED.
AND YOU REALLY EXPECT HIM TO SHARE THE ULTIMATE 'PRIZE' OF ALL THIS WITH YOU?

NOT IN THE LEAST. I EXPECT HIM TO BETRAY ME ONCE HE SEES NO FURTHER USE FOR MY AID -- JUST AS HE EXPECTS ME TO BETRAY HIM.
OURS IS A MARRIAGE OF CONVENTION, NOT TRUST.
A CONVENTION THAT CAN DEFINITELY BENEFIT FROM YOUR INVOLVEMENT. --
IS SPENDING YOUR LAST DAYS AS A VAMPIRE WITH ME REALLY THAT UNAPPEALING TO YOU?
AREN'T YOU A LITTLE OLD TO BE PLAYING THIS GAME?
NO NEED TO GET OFFENSIVE - BESIDES, YOU'RE FORGETTING THE MOST COMPELLING REASON AVAILABLE: YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANYTHING BETTER TO DO...

PERHAPS I WAS WRONG ABOUT HIM. DISAPPOINTING, I'M USUALLY MUCH MORE ACCURATE.
DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF BELMIRO.
AS USUAL, YOUR PLANS JUST NEEDED A WOMAN'S TOUCH TO BRING TO COMPLETION.
SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO JOIN US AFTER ALL.
THINK OF IT AS TEMPORARY. WHERE ARE WE GOING?
TO THE CAPITAL. WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO KEEP.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WE'VE CONVINCED TO JOIN OUR CAUSE.

None of us knows how much time we have left you understand it was only a matter of time certain alliances were formed.
in this battle for survival, same time, allies. Each of us has much to gain as we do to lose. Many realized that there's no need to for crumbs of a when can take an entire one in a single battle.
perhaps converge on
You really expect your starving will from throats?
Not at all. Why go around the continent for other when they'll all the same place.
The trick, my friend, isn't in winning the battle, it's surviving the war. The last vampire standing wins by default.

SO THAT'S YOUR PLAN? TRY AND KEEP FROM DROWNING IN YOUR OWN BLOODBATH?
OH, I THINK WE'LL BE A LITTLE BIT MORE PREPARED THAN THAT.
What do you intend to do?
You'll find out soon enough - for now, we're moving. We only have four moons to reach Tessan's abbey.
BRING THE HUMAN. WE'LL MOVE FASTER IF WE DON'T HAVE TO STOP AND HUNT.
SHE'S YOUR SNACK - YOU CAN KEEP AN EYE ON HER THEN.
GET UP...

Several hours later
HOW MUCH FURTHER TO TESSAN'S STRONGHOLD?
WE'RE NOT GOING TO THE STRONGHOLD. NOT YET AT LEAST. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO KEEP AT.
I'VE NO PATIENCE FOR GAMES DELMIRO.
I'M AFRAID I MUST INSIST ON AT LEAST ONE GAME IN THIS INSTANCE GREYSON. REMEMBER THE RISK WE EXPOSE OURSELVES TO ATTACKING ONE OF THE VAMPIRE LORDS.
AH!
I SUGGEST YOU TRY HARDER TO KEEP UP, UNLESS YOU PREFER TO BE DRAGGED.
DELMIRO-

There's no time to wonder what's happened to Velvet and Rosalia.
?
SNIFF...
And more importantly, others can smell it too...
The girl must have injured herself because I can smell blood.
Vampires usually hunt alone~~

Belmiro is familiar with this area, he'd have known which places to avoid.
So well that apparently he knows how to disappear just before an ambush.
I should have known better than to trust the likes of him.

--Not that I wasn't suspicious.
And he's going to have to do a lot better than this if he wants me dead.
SKKLUURCH!
SHHRRRIIP!
SPLASH!
IMPRESSIVE.
NOT BAD.

THWAAK!

SKLUURCH
AAAAH!
SLAASSH!
THWWKKKK
THOOOSHH!

SHHRIPP
SHRRIPP
GKKLURCH!
YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET THAT STUNT OF YOURS BELMIRO. IF YOU WANTED TO KILL ME, YOU SHOULDVE TRIED TO DO IT YOURSELF.
HMPH. YOU'RE SLOPPIER THAN I REMEMBER GREYSON. AND IF I WANTED YOU DEAD, I'D HAVE DONE IT ALREADY.

DON'T ACT SO SURPRISED.
I DON'T CHOOSE MY ALLIES LIGHTLY, I NEEDED TO KNOW IF YOU COULD STILL HANDLE YOURSELF IN A FIGHT.
IT DOES ME NO GOOD IF ALL YOU CAN DO IS GET YOURSELF KILLED.
If I had died just now, he would've just gone on and found someone else.
I wonder if Rosala had to pass such a test.
DON'T BE SUCH A POOR SPORT--
--YOU ONCE TOOK GREAT PLEASURE IN KILLING YOUR OWN KIND. OUR GOALS ARE ONE AND THE SAME THIS TIME, NOW THAT YOU'VE PROVED YOURSELF.
ALL YOU WANT IS POWER FOR POWER'S SAKE BELMIRO. I'M JUST LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT.
Or how many others before us failed...
TO BECOME HUMAN AGAIN YOU MEAN?

YOU DARE TO LOOK DOWN ON ME THROUGH THE GLASS OF YOUR DISGUSTING HUMAN VALUES?
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT? TO DIE LIKE THIS POOR BROKEN THING? THIS 'SHRINE' TO PATHETIC WAILING WEAKNESS IS YOUR WAY OUT?
CAN YOU HEAR IT'S HEART SLOWING? IT WILL BE DEAD SOON. LET US SEE IF GOD WILL COME TO TAKE IT TO PARADISE...
LOOK, GOD OF MORTALS! COME AND TAKE THE SPIRIT OF YOUR NOBLE CLERIC; KILLED IN A QUEST TO RID THE WORLD OF OUR KIND AND LINE THE POCKETS OF YOUR CHURCH!
IT'S DEAD, GUNDYSON.
DID YOU FEEL IT'S SOUL ESCAPING?
DID YOU FEEL ANY REDEMPTION TAKING PLACE?

PERHAPS THE MAGGOTS WILL TAKE HER TO HER GOD.
SPLOOSH!
I WONDER, IF HER GOD FOUND HER UNWORTHY, WHAT WILL HE THINK OF YOU?
WE'RE WASTING TIME. WE HAVE TO BE WITHIN SIGHT OF TESSAN'S ABBEY IN THREE DAYS.
BUT WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I TRUST YOU ANY MORE THAN I DO HIM?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THAT BEFORE. DO YOU THINK IT COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF SOME SORT OF MADNESS? -IF SO, WE MAY HAVE TO FINISH HIM OFF OURSELVES.
YOU HAVE A GIFT FOR SURVIVAL, ROSALA.

*See Warlands Volume 1 for details.

WHERE ARE WE?
I BELIEVE THIS IS THE ADJOINING BRIDGE INTO THE CITY SURROUNDING THE ABBEY. ALTHOUGH THERE DOESN'T SEEM TOO MUCH OF IT LEFT.
THERE'S A NETWORK OF CATACOMBS BENEATH THE CITY. I KNOW A WAY THROUGH THEM THAT WILL TAKE US DIRECTLY BENEATH THE ABBEY. MY PEOPLE ARE ALREADY INSIDE AWAITING MY ARRIVAL.
I'M SURE HE KNOWS FULL WELL. THE QUESTION IS, CAN HE DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
I'VE BEEN KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON HIM FOR SOME TIME NOW, BELIEVE ME, THE BIGGER PROBLEM WILL BE THE INEVITABLE FALLING OUT AMONG OUR RANKS ONCE TESSAN IS DEAD.
DON'T YOU THINK TESSAN WOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT? EVEN WITH HIS POWERS DIMINISHED I DOUBT THE PRESENCE OF SO MANY VAMPIRES IN HIS DOMAIN WILL GO UNNOTICED... OR THAT HE'D BE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO LEAVE SUCH AN OBVIOUS AVENUE OF ATTACK INTO HIS OWN HOME.
YOU'RE LATE.
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK ABOUT YOUR OWN ALLIES BELMORO?

MY APOLOGIES GENTLEMEN. I HAD SOME PRESSING BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO. I THANK YOU FOR ASSEMBLING MY MEN IN A TIMELY FASHION ARAM.
YOUR MEN? I BEG YOUR PARDON BELMIRO, BUT IT SEEMS YOU'VE BROUGHT MEN OF YOUR OWN.
WE CAN WORRY ABOUT THE SEMANTICS LATER ARAM. WE'VE PREPARATIONS TO MAKE.

As soon as Belmiro leaves the room I can see more than a few of them go for their weapons.
SEE TO MY COMPANION'S NEEDS, ARAM AND I WILL RETURN SHORTLY.
SOMETHING TELLS ME THE LOYALTY OF BELMIRO'S MEN LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED.
FIGURED THAT OUT ALL BY YOURSELF DID YOU?
WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS HERE VAMPIRE?
THE SAME AS YOURS.
This is going to get real real ugly...

With Aram gone, one of the more cowardly out of the bunch sees an opportunity to look big in front of his cronies.
WELL, I DON'T RECOGNIZE EITHER OF YOU, AND IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, WE'VE GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH HIRED SWORDS, IN FACT, THE ONLY THING WE SEEM TO BE SHORT OF--
Seems like he wants to make an example out of me.
-IS FOOD.
GREYSON!
DON'T YOU DO IT DAMN IT!
KRRAKK!
WELL NOW YOU'RE SHORT SOME TEETH AS WELL

I'M REALLY STARTING TO REGRET BRINGING YOU ALONG GREYSON...
TRUST ME ROSALA, IT'S NOT NEARLY AS MUCH AS I REGRET LETTING YOU...

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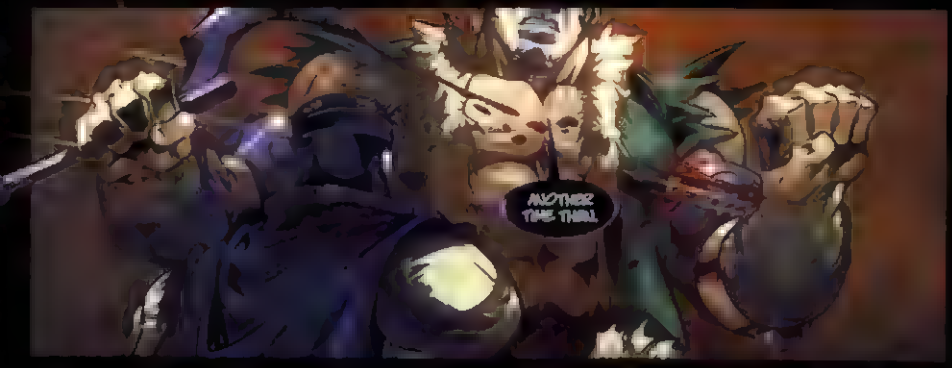
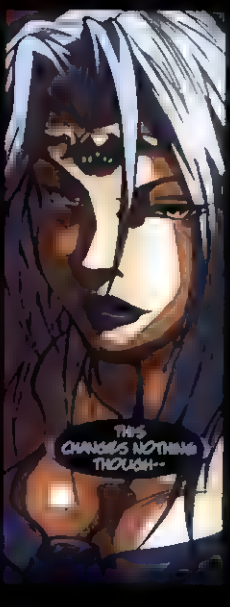
LOOK OUT!
The only problem is that
one falls, the entire chamber
will be up in a frenzy.

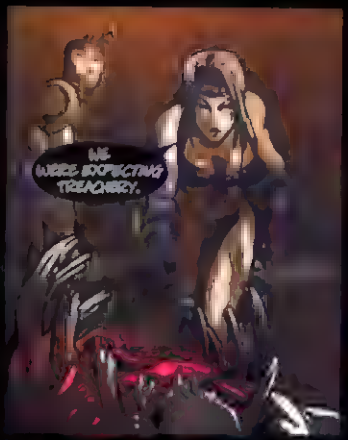
ENOUGH.

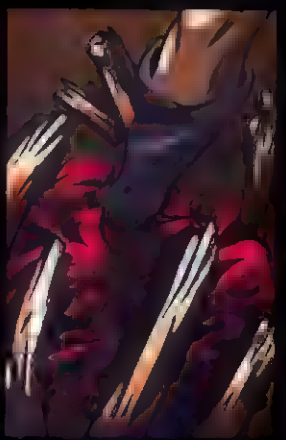
YOUR COMPANIONS SEEM TO HAVE A TALENT FOR GETTING THEMSELVES INTO MISCHIEF BELMIRO. SEE THAT THEY DON'T BECOME MORE TROUBLE THAN THEY'RE WORTH.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD KEEP YOUR FLUNKIES OUT OF THEIR WAY.
BE CAREFUL BELMIRO.
HEAR ME CHILDREN OF DATARA:
THE PATH TO THE ABBEY IS CLEAR. IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A FIGHT SOONER THAN THAT, I CAN KILL YOU MYSELF. OTHERWISE, NO ONE DRAWS BLOOD UNTIL WE ENTER THE GROUNDS.
--ORGANIZE YOURSELVES. WE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

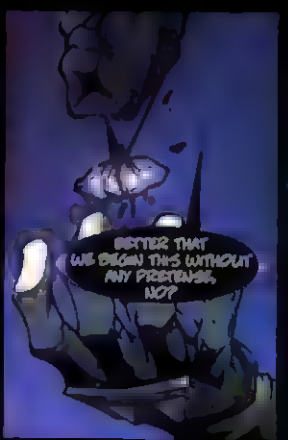

ANOTHER TIME THEN.

WHAT ARE YOU AND BELMIRO UP TO ROSALA? THESE VAMPIRES WERE SUPPOSED TO BE OUR ALLIES.
NOT I GREYSON. IF I'D HAVE KNOWN ABOUT IT, IT WOULD'VE BEEN TIMELY ENOUGH FOR ME TO LEAVE THE ROOM WITH BELMIRO AND LET YOU FACE THEM ON YOUR OWN.


THIS CHANGES NOTHING THOUGH--


WE WERE EXPECTING TREACHERY.




BETTER THAT WE BEGIN THIS WITHOUT ANY PRETENSE, NO?

"RAITHE?" THAT'S FAERIE ISN'T IT? I THINK IT MEANS 'HE WHO IS INVINCIBLE.'
'DEVIL WHO IS INVINCIBLE' WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE. HIS FOLLOWERS GAVE HIM THAT NAME.
IF MALAGEN WAS STILL AROUND HE'D HAVE CHALLENGED HIM FOR LEADERSHIP OF THE CLANS BY NOW. AS THINGS WORKED OUT, HE SPENT A NUMBER OF YEARS CROSSING SWORDS WITH ZEPH THE ARCHMAGE BEFORE HE TURNED HIS ATTENTIONS TO GATHERING A SOUL.
IF HE'S SO DAMNED POWERFUL, HOW DO YOU EXPECT YOU'RE GOING TO GET THE BETTER OF HIM WHEN AND IF WE ACTUALLY FIND TESSAN?
ONE THING AT A TIME GREYSON. FIRST WE TAKE CARE OF TESSAN, THEN WE WORRY ABOUT RAITHE.
I don't know what he's got planned
but it's not what he says

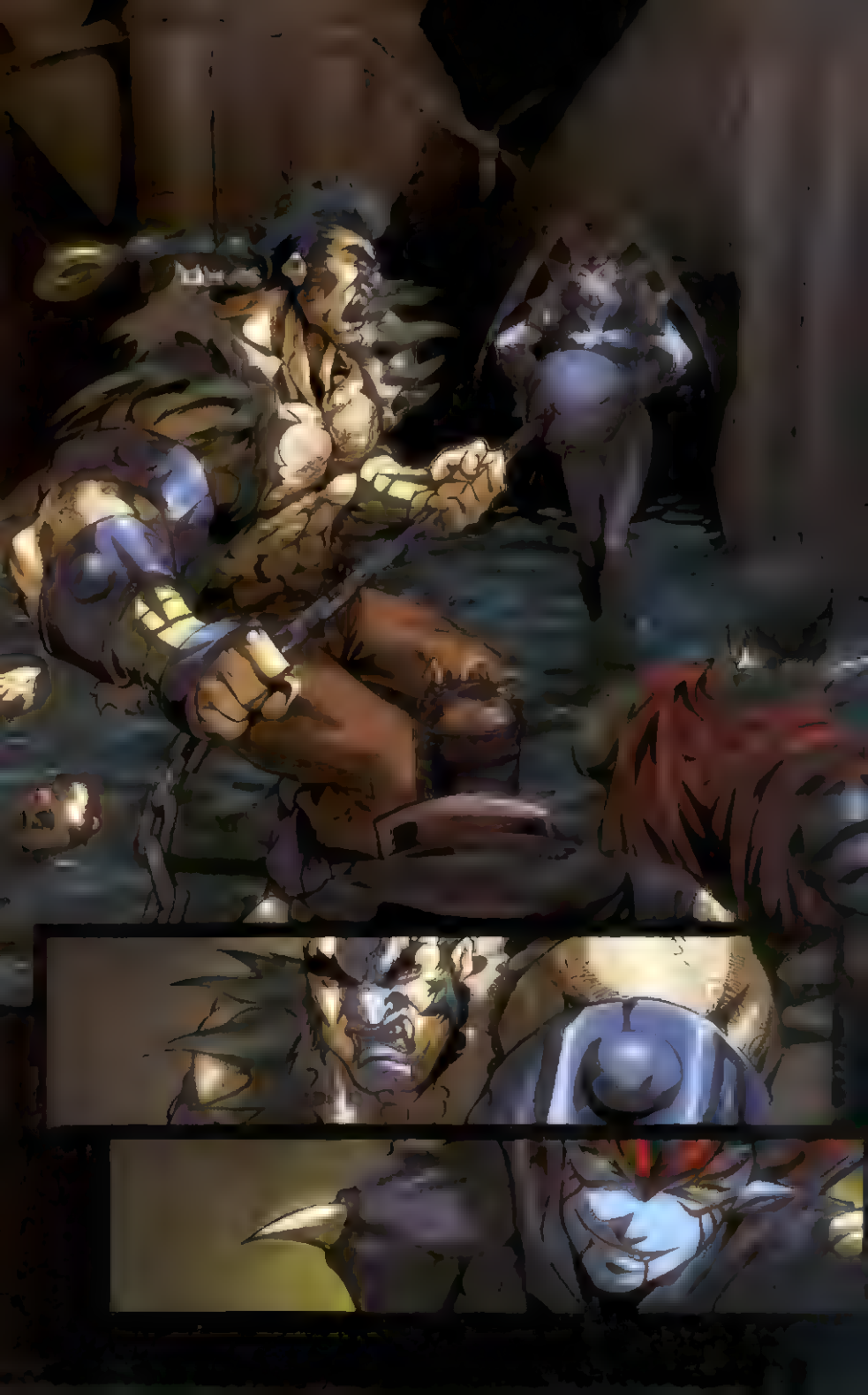
BELMARO! THE CAVERN FORKS. WHICH WAY IS IT TO THE ABBEY?
TAKE YOUR PICK RATHE. BOTH OF THEM LEAD TO HELL.
PFFFT!
BELMARO!!!
WE'VE BEEN BETRAYED!
KRR-BOOM!

TURN BACK, GET OUT OF THE TUNNELS!
Thoop!
TARAS BLOOD! WHAT IS IT??
Thooosh!
GUESS WORK CAN WAIT UNTIL LATER! WE'RE LEAVING!

WHRUSH
WE NEED TO GET THROUGH THE WALL!
You've got to give Ruthe credit, this whole thing has gone sour in a hurry, but he's still thinking on his feet.
THWOOOM!!
Most of the other vampires have already broken out into a disorganized panic. From the sound of things, whatever's out there is picking them

* See Warlands Volume #1 for details.

Woosh!
Woosh!
CRIH-KK-LANGG!



KKRRRR
SMACK!
KLL-INK

SHH-BOOOM!!!
KRRRRR

KKRRR
KRRRKK!
HANG ON!!!
LOOK OUT!
WOOOMP!
SCRRR!
SCRRR!

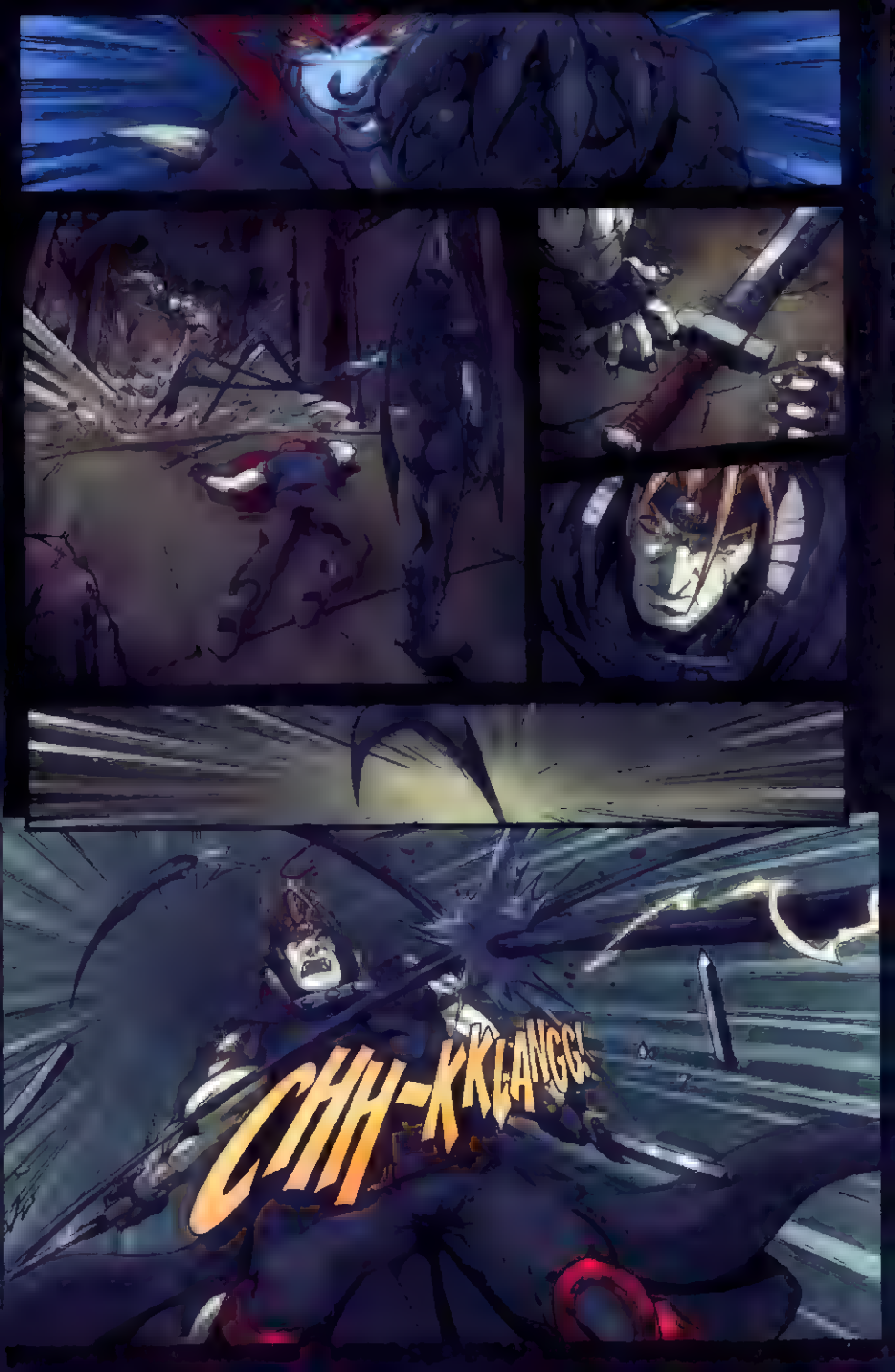
HANG ON!
SCRRR!
SCRRR!
DO YOU THINK IT'S DEAD?
WE SHOULD BE SO LUCKY...
COME ON - THAT HOLE WON'T HOLD IT FOR LONG, AND WE CAN'T FIGHT IN HERE..

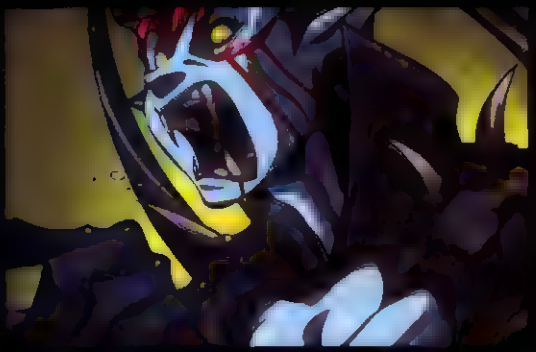
Several minutes later...
WHERE ARE WE?
YOU'RE IN THE TUNNELS ADJOINING TUSSAN'S INNER SANCTUM WITH THE REST OF THE CATACOMBS.
NOT A GOOD PLACE TO BE VAMPIRE.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!?
WHAT'S GOING ON INDEED. THE GUARDIAN WAS TO HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH BEFORE WE ARRIVED. IT KNEW WHERE TO FIND US.

THWOP!
WHAAM!
DO YOU KNOW WHO GAVE US THE INTELLIGENCE ON TESSAY'S SUPPOSED VULNERABILITY?
BELMIRO.

CONVENIENT THAT HE'S NOWHERE TO BE FOUND NOW THAT THE FIGHTING HAS STARTED? I WONDER, DID HE BETRAY YOU AS WELL, OR WERE YOU STILL TO DULL WITTED TO KEEP UP WITH HIM?
BELMIRO BETRAYED US!!
MAYBE, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.
AND EVEN IF I DID I DON'T LIKE EITHER OF YOU ENOUGH TO NOT ENJOY KILLING YOU. IF YOU'VE GOT ANY GREAT PROBLEM WITH THAT, YOU CAN TAKE IT UP WITH BELMIRO, WE'LL BE SENDING HIM TO JOIN YOU BEFORE..

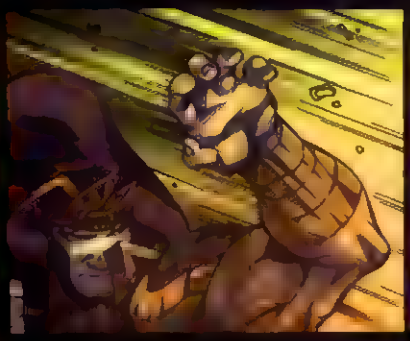
KRAK!
YOU TALK TOO DAMNED MUCH.
I WAS GOING TO KILL YOU QUICKLY, BUT NOW I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU SUFF...
SKKLUURCH!


CHH-KKLANGG!



SHH-THOOK!

SHHRR-VOOM!



DID YOU KILL IT?

NOT HARDLY...
Clang!
Clang!
...BUT SOON.
ANY SIGN OF TASSAI YET?
Clap! Clap!
Clap!
Clap!
Clap!
CONGRATULATIONS. I HAD MY DOUBTS THAT ANY OF YOU WOULD MAKE IT THIS FAR. I'M PLEASED I'LL HAVE THE PLEASURE OF KILLING YOU MYSELF.

OUT OF THE WAY BELMIRO. I WANT TESSAN. YOU CAN PAY FOR YOUR BETRAYAL LATER.
YOU'RE A FOOL RATHE. I HAVE DONE EXACTLY AS I PROMISED.
YOU SEEK TO COLLECT A HUMAN SOUL BY SLAYING A VAMPIRE LORD. I CAME TO YOU PROMISING TO GIVE YOU THAT OPPORTUNITY.
AM I NOT ALLOWED TO TRY FOR SUCH AN END MYSELF?
AFTER ALL: AN ARMY OF LESSER VAMPIRES TO KILL IS ALMOST A MORE ATTRACTIVE PRIZE THAN A SINGLE VAMPIRE LORD.

IT WAS TESSAN ALL ALONG ...HE ORCHESTRATED THIS ENTIRE PLAN...
AS I PROMISED: NOW YOU HAVE YOUR CHANCE. COME LITTLE VAMPIRES. YOUR DEATHS AWAIT YOU...

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TELL ME, YOU CAME HERE GAMBLING THAT AN ARMY OF VAMPIRES COULD DEFEAT ME.
WHAT ODDS DO YOU GIVE YOURSELF WITHOUT THEM RATHE?
YOU SPEAK LIKE A TRUE VAMPIRE LORD TESSAN - BUT WHERE ARE YOUR FOLLOW LORDS? WHERE IS THE GREAT CLANS OF DATARA THAT YOUR BRETHREN ONCE LED?
ONE BY ONE THEY'VE FALLEN TO DUST. YOU ARE ONLY THE LATEST.

ENOUGH... TALK...
AAAAAAAAH!!

LET HIM GO.
SO QUICK TO ABANDON YOUR ALLIES RATHER
HE'S DEAD ALREADY. WE'LL ALL BE KILLED IF WE DON'T SEPARATE TESSAN AND HIS PET FIRST. ON MY SIGNAL, TAKE THE GUARDIAN. WE HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST EITHER ONE ALONE, BUT WE CAN'T FIGHT THEM BOTH.
AND WHAT DO WE GAIN, IF YOU END UP TAKING TESSAN'S POWER FOR YOURSELF?
THE TWO OF YOU CAN TAKE TESSAN IF YOU PREFER, BUT THIS IS NO LONGER A QUEST FOR POWER. YOURS FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIVES.
TRY TO ESCAPE ON YOUR OWN AND YOU'LL ONLY GET YOURSELF KILLED IN THE CATACOMBS. THIS IS HIS DOMAIN.
POINT TAKEN.
ALWAYS THE TACTICIAN EH RATHER

SHHH!
SHHH!
SHHH!
THUP!
THUP!
THUP!
THWAAKK!
SHRILL!
SHRILL!
SHRILL!

NOW.
COME ON!
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING I'M GOING TO REGRET THIS...
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE CAN TRUST RATHE??
NOTHING. BUT HE'S RIGHT: THIS WAS TESSAN'S TRAP FOR US ALL ALONG.
I WAS AFRAID YOU WERE GOING TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

THOOK!
THOOK!
THOOK
NOW! ATTACK IT IN UNISON!
AAAHHH!!
ARRGHH!!

THIS IS USELESS! IT'S SKIN IS HARDER THAN STEEL!
SHHIINNGG!
SHHIINNGG!
THUP!

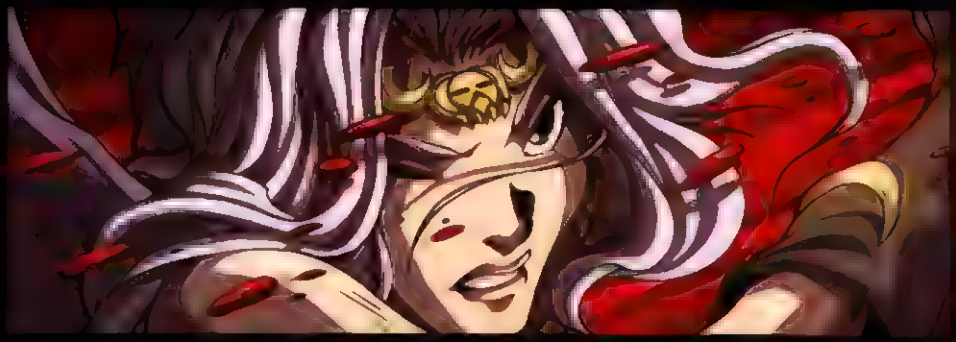
FORGET HER GREY-SON! SHE'S GOING TO GET HERSELF KILLED!
SHHING!
THUP!
THUP!
THUP!
CONCENTRATE ON DEFEATING THE GUARDIAN! WE HAVE TO FIND ITS VULNERABILITY!
IT TOOK AN ARCHMAGE AND AN ARMY TO DEFEAT MALAGEN'S GUARDIAN RAITHE! I DON'T THINK WE HAVE THE LUXURY OF TRIAL AND ERR...
SHH-KRAAK!!
SHHRIIP!
SHHRIIP!
TWHAAK!
WHOOOM!

KKRR-BOOM!
COME ON! WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME - TESSAN WILL BE ON US AT ANY MOMENT. OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO LURE THE GUARDIAN INTO THE CATACOMBS AND KILL IT THERE BEFORE TESSAN CAN FIND US...
CAN YOU STILL FIGHT?
YES... I'LL BE FINE IN A MOMENT...
WHERE ARE WE?
THIS PIT RUNS THROUGH THE CENTER OF TESSAN'S ABBEY... THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO CROSS OVER TO THE EASTERN WING OF THE CATACOMBS. ANYTHING COMING AFTER US WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO COME FROM THIS DIRECTION.

THHSSH!
THHSSH!
KRRASSH!
IT APPEARS WE WON'T BE SEEING THE BAST WING AFTER ALL...
TSSS
TSSS
TSSS
TSSS

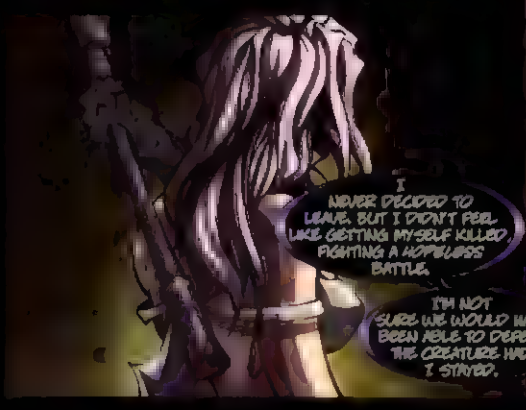
GET DOWN!!
ROSALA??
NOOOSSH!

THOOK!
THOOK!
THOOK!
SLASHH!
SLASHH!
SKKLUUURCHH!



WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO COME BACK?

THE ONLY TIME WE MANAGED TO CUT THROUGH IT'S BODY WAS WHEN IT'S CLAWS WERE EXTENDED.
I GAMBLED THAT IF I STAYED OUT OF SIGHT, I WOULD GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISABLE IT. IT'S NOT DEAD, BUT IT'S HARMLESS ENOUGH NOW.
FINISH IT OFF THEN, AND BE DONE WITH IT.
NO.


I NEVER DECIDED TO LEAVE. BUT I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE GETTING MYSELF KILLED FIGHTING A HOPELESS BATTLE.
I'M NOT SURE WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEFEAT THE CREATURE HAD I STAYED.

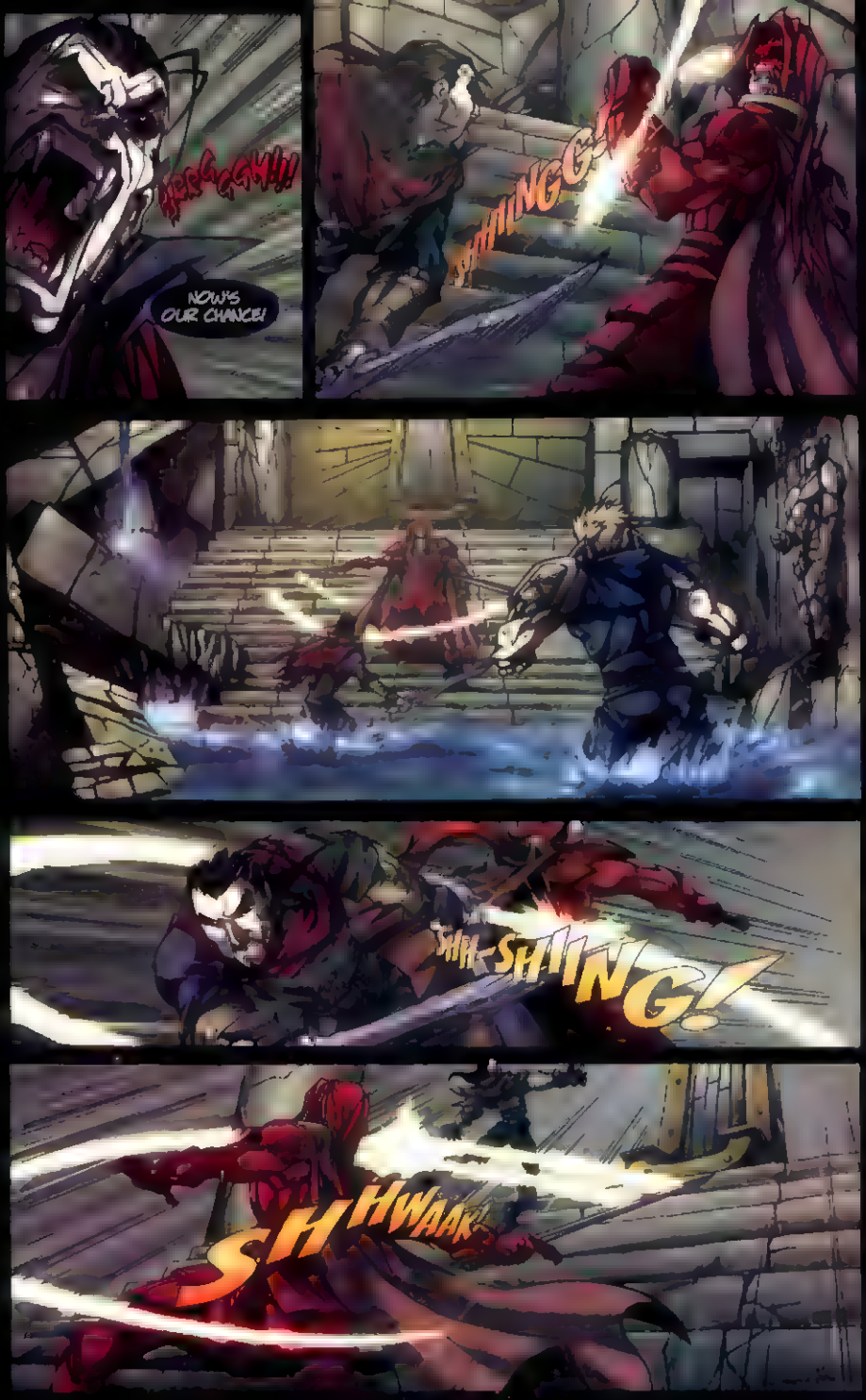
BETTER TO LET IT SUFFER, WRETCHED CREATURE...
AAAHHH!

FAIR ENOUGH. NOW ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO DISPOSE OF IT'S MASTER...
SHHP!
SHHP!
SHHP!
LOOK OUT!
THWP!
THWP!
THWP!
THWWWHSH!

WELL DONE. I MUST ADMIT, I NEVER EXPECTED YOU WOULD DEFEAT MY PET, NOR DID I EXPECT I WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH ANY OF YOU PERSONALLY. AN UNEXPECTED PLEASURE.
DOESN'T THIS BASTARD EVER STOP TALKING?
AGREED.
AFTER TONIGHT NO ONE WILL EVER HAVE TO MAKE THAT OBSERVATION AGAIN...
ALL THREE OF YOU TALK TOO MUCH...AND THERE ISN'T ENOUGH ROOM TO FIGHT UP HERE...
THOOK!
THOOK!
KKRRRRRR!

KKKRRSSHHH!!
WHERE IS HE!!!
STAY CALM! HE'LL BE RIGHT ON TOP OF US...
SHHING!
SLAAASHHH!

FOOLS.
THOOSH!
--BUT IF SUCH PITIFUL PHYSICAL ATTACKS IS ALL THAT YOU'VE BROUGHT TO BEAR THAN YOU HAVE EVEN LESS OF A CHANCE THAN EVEN I WOULD HAVE GUESSED.
TRYING TO DEFEAT ME IN MY OWN DOMAIN WAS A GAMBLE IN AND OF ITSELF-
SLLAASSH!
PERHAPS THAT WAS OUR PLAN ALL ALONG - TO BLIND YOU WITH YOUR OWN CONFIDENCE...AND THEN BLIND YOU LITERALLY AS WELL!
SLLAASHH!


HRRGGGH!!!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
SHHIINGG!
SHH-SHIING!
SHHWAAK

THHWAAK
SHHP!
SHHP!
SHHP!
SHHP!
SHHP!
GREYSON...
A VALIANT TRY RAITHE. I'VE NOT HAD SUCH AN ENJOYABLE ENCOUNTER IN CENTURIES.

A PITY NONE OF YOU WILL LIVE TO TELL THE TALE.
IT'S NOT OVER YET TESSAN.
OH COME NOW RAITHE. EVEN WITHOUT MY EYES I CAN SEE YOU'RE FINISHED.
BEG ME FOR MERCY, AND I MAY KILL YOU QUICKLY.
UP TO THIS MOMENT, EVERYTHING HAS GONE EXACTLY ACCORDING TO MY PLAN...

TELL ME THEN RATHE, WHAT STEP OF YOUR GRAND PLAN HAVE WE ARRIVED AT NOW?
THAT'S VERY SIMPLE..
THHOOOSH
THIS IS WHERE WE REVEAL THE SECRET THAT MY ENTIRE PLAN HAS HINGED ON SINCE THE BEGINNING...

THHOOOSH
KKRRKK!

YOU TALK TOO DAMN MUCH...
THUP!
Guuurrrrgllle...
IT'S DONE...

UUHH... IT SEEMS WE'VE SPLIT THE ENERGY HARNESSED FROM TESSAN'S DEATH.
SHING!
SHING!
I DIDN'T EXPECT EITHER OF YOU TO BE ALIVE AT THIS POINT, BUT I MUST ADMIT THIS OUTCOME WAS MUCH MORE PREFERABLE TO THE ALTERNATIVES.
YOUR CONFIDENCE IN MY ABILITY TO STAY ALIVE IS AWE INSPIRING RAITHE...
WHAT NOW GREYSON? SHALL WE KILL EACH OTHER NOW, FOR WHAT LITTLE PIECE OF OBLIVION WE'VE MANAGED TO TAKE FROM TESSAN?
IF THAT'S WHAT THE TWO OF YOU HAVE PLANNED LEAVE ME OUT OF IT. I'VE TASTED ENOUGH BLOOD FOR ONE DAY...

WE'RE IN AN INTERESTING POSITION. WE ALL EXPECTED TO HAVE GAINED POSSESSION OF A COMPLETED MORTAL SOUL AT THIS POINT IN OUR LITTLE GAME.
I IMAGINE THE TWO OF YOU HAD SOME FANCY PLANS FOR AN EVENTUAL TREACHERY.
AND THEREIN LIES OUR PROBLEM... NONE OF US HAVE ACHIEVED OUR GOAL YET...
THERE ARE YET VAMPIRES, AND VAMPIRES LORDS TO KILL BESIDES THOSE PRESENT NOW...
PERHAPS WE SHOULD CONSIDER OUR ORIGINAL BARGAIN AS EXACTLY THE WAY IT STANDS: UNFINISHED.
WELL THEN GREYSON, WHAT IS IT THEN? DO WE COME TO OUR END NOW, OR SHALL WE FIGHT TOGETHER UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT WE CAN SAFELY BETRAY EACH OTHER?
AN INTERESTING PROPOSITION. I BELIEVE ROSALA HAS ALREADY CAST HER VOTE...
ALRIGHT. UNTIL ONE OF US CLAIMS THE PRIZE THEN... OR WE DIE TRYING.
THANKS!! MATEO GUERRERO & JAIME JIMENEZ.